

State of  
Washington  
House of  
Representatives



June 20, 2011

FCC Commissioners,

We thank you for the opportunity to be included in the public comments on the proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile. We strongly believe the transaction makes sense for our constituents in rural northeast Washington State.

Washington State's 7<sup>th</sup> Legislative District borders Idaho and Canada and includes Tonasket, Kettle Falls and Odessa. We are a rural district, and that's why we are excited about the merger. With the transaction, AT&T is making an \$8 billion investment commitment to build out the latest mobile broadband technology to reach 55 million Americans who currently do not have access to these services, or who have limited choices in rural America.

We understand that the FCC standard for merger approval rests on whether it is in the public interest. By this standard, we believe the FCC would be well-advised to rule favorably on the AT&T-T-Mobile deal. By rolling out the latest 4G LTE mobile broadband throughout communities such as ours, the merger creates jobs, affords greater access to high-speed broadband for consumers, widens educational opportunities through digital learning, and sparks small business growth.

This is real economic stimulus: allowing the free market to expand growth and lower prices. By providing faster broadband services across the 7<sup>th</sup> Legislative District and the rest of Eastern Washington, we level the playing field with competitors in urban areas. This is good for our families and our businesses.

We urge your support and we thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Kretz".

JOEL KRETZ  
Washington State Representative  
Republican Deputy Leader  
7<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelly Short".

SHELLY SHORT  
Washington State Representative  
7<sup>th</sup> Legislative District